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on his achievement. He has made every scientific student and every practical worker in this field his debtor.

J. P. LICHTENBERGER.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

MELVIN, FLOYD J. *Socialism as the Sociological Ideal*. Pp. 216. Price, \$1.25. New York: Sturgis and Walton Company, 1915.

Dr. Melvin, having in mind the social philosophy so well put by Ward—"the conscious improvement of society by society," finds great emotional and intellectual forces making for this ideal in the tenets of socialism.

Entering this kingdom of "social self-consciousness," the individual finds bulwarked against his further progress the evils of a rockbound competitive system of industry—a system diametrically opposed to the ideals of the sociologist. Under this competitive reign he sees justice mocked, ethical and aesthetic tendencies choked, and religion shackled. These spiritual ideals are now demanding realization. Likewise coöperation, the division of labor, the factory system and the introduction of machinery are the material forerunners of the social commonwealth. Means and methods of social regulation such as education, a "controlled" evolution and a "representative decision" must replace the anarchistic means of deadly warfare, natural selection and gruelling competition.

The writer closes his book with a clear portrayal of the aims and ideals of the socialist summed up in his sentences: "Having no classes, socialism has no irrational principles to uphold, no vested rights to be protected, no cherished institutions to be maintained. All is fluid, plastic. This is spiritual freedom."

Many sociologists will take bitter exception to Dr. Melvin's linking an economic panacea with the science of sociology as the latter's ideal. This branch of study has fought and fought hard to establish itself, and now to link it with socialism, a movement and a term arousing so much antagonism, must to many minds work havoc for sociology as a science.

C. E. REITZEL.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

MORGAN, BARBARA SPOFFORD. *The Backward Child: A Study of the Psychology and Treatment of Backwardness*. Pp. vii, 263. Price, \$1.25. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1914.

The recent development of clinical psychology and statistical studies of retardation in elementary school systems have outlined the problem of the "backward child." This is not the problem of the feeble-minded child whose training can never have great social value. It is rather the problem of the child whose educational progress has been delayed through certain mental or physical incapacities or through lack of proper training and education.

To the latter problem the book is addressed. It is intended for the use of parents, teachers, and other educators who have to deal with atypical children. Its primary emphasis is on individual treatment. There must be a careful psychological analysis of the individual child in question. He must "be very delicately persuaded into revealing" his handicaps and abilities, and the "tests

used for this persuasion are a kind of abbreviation of the activities of a child's life." But these tests must never become a merely formal means to a rigid classification. They must be interpreted and the writer bases her interpretation on clinical experience from which she has taken a number of cases for illustration.

Once the problem of a particular child is outlined, his training must follow the lines indicated. This must conform to certain psychological principles of mental development, and a large portion of the book is devoted to an interesting treatment of the familiar topics of attention, memory, perception, reasoning, etc.

The careful reader will certainly realize that most of the principles and even much of the method of the book will have application in dealing with the precocious as well as with the backward child.

F. N. MAXFIELD.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

ANTIN, MARY. *They Who Knock at Our Gates*. Pp. x, 142. Price, \$1.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1914.

It is too much to expect that an author who has won deserved renown for her autobiographical sketch *The Promised Land* will rise to quite the same heights in an attempt to interpret modern immigrants. She writes in interesting, sympathetic and friendly fashion and the book is enjoyable. She feels that our present duty lies in the distribution and safeguarding of the immigrants rather than in artificial tests of fitness whose real aim is exclusion.

BERNHEIMER, CHAS. S. and COHEN, JACOB M. *Boys' Clubs*. Pp. 136. Price, \$1.00. New York: The Baker and Taylor Company, 1914.

Contains in brief compass suggestions for the formation and conduct of clubs for boys (and girls) with a brief parliamentary guide, typical constitutions and by-laws, and many hints as to programs for meetings and various other aids.

BOWLEY, A. L. *The Measurement of Social Phenomena*. Pp. viii, 241. Price, 3s. 6d. London: P. S. King and Son, 1915.

The author has departed from the standard of his previous books and attempted to write a popular book on statistics. The result of his effort is an interesting combination of statistical technicalities and explanations of the most elementary character. The book was aimed to reach a group of social workers. It is improbable that they will get from it a working knowledge of statistical method.

*Boyhood and Lawlessness; with The Neglected Girl*. Pp. xix, 215; iii, 143. Price, \$2.00. *The Middle West Side; with Mothers Who Must Earn*. Pp. xiii, 67; viii, 223. Price, \$2.00. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1914.

The Russell Sage Foundation in these volumes continues the publication of investigations made under its auspices.

In the first volume is a study of boys in a part of the West Side of New York City, a description of their daily life and their troubles as well as troubles caused by them which lead them into the court. The material was collected by Mr.